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PRESS RELEASE

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**SECRETARY of STATE JAEGER ANNOUNCES
VOTER EDUCATION GRANT AWARDS**

Bismarck, N.D. – On Thursday, November 3, Secretary of State Al Jaeger announced the awarding of grants to five organizations for voter education projects during the 2006 election year. The organizations will share \$208,000 made available under the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) voter education grant program, which is administered by the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office.

A HAVA education committee has been working with the Secretary of State's office and county election officials to provide election poll worker training and to educate voters on their rights and the voting processes. The funded projects, in particular, are directed toward population segments needing special programs not available under mainstream voter education efforts. The grant recipients will provide instruction on the voting process, voter rights, methods and options for casting a ballot, and using the new voting equipment to be used statewide beginning with the June 2006 election.

The organizations receiving grants are Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD), \$19,885; the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD), \$50,000; the League of Women Voters of Bismarck/Mandan, \$35,000; KAT Productions, \$31,975; and United Tribes Technical College (UTTC), \$71,435.

Since passage of HAVA in October 2002, North Dakota has been a national leader in achieving HAVA compliance prior to the federally mandated January 1 deadline for deploying new voting systems. The state's readiness has been accomplished through a cooperative effort between the state legislature, secretary of state, county auditors, the North Dakota Association of Counties, voter interest groups, and organizations advocating for persons with disabilities.